

**Effect of massage therapy on postoperative nausea and vomiting in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy**

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Effect of massage therapy on postoperative nausea and vomiting in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy: a systematic review

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Abstract

Introduction: Nausea and vomiting are the most common and most annoying physical side effects of chemotherapy and massage therapy is one method to reduce these effects. However, because these studies were conducted with different designs and have shown different effects on different populations, the objective of this study was to systematically study which has examined the effect of massage therapy on nausea and vomiting in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy until 2014.

Methods: In order to determine the effect of massage therapy techniques on nausea and vomiting in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, all articles on these subjects to 2014, such as Electronic Information CINAHL, British Nursing Index, EMBASE, AMED, PsycINFO, PubMed, SIGLE, Google scholar, CancerLit and site of Chochrane were searched, and finally according to inclusion criteria, 14 articles remained using relevant keywords based on clinical and quasi-experimental trials on nausea and vomiting. The results of all relevant studies were tested by two researchers and based on the checklists of evaluation studies of clinical and quasi-experimental trials and criteria for entry into the study, 6 studies were removed and 8 of them were remained.

Conclusion: Only two of the 8 studies did not show significant results regarding the effect of massage therapy on nausea and vomiting in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. 5 studies of 8 studies on women with breast cancer, a study of gynecological cancers and two studies were conducted on other types of cancers. Given that no studies have been conducted on various types of cancer and chemotherapy, therefore, more randomized controlled trials are seems to evaluate and determine the effectiveness of massage therapy.

**Keywords:** "cancer," "nausea," "vomiting" and "massage" Systematic Review

Introduction

Cancer is the most frightening of all diseases including cardiovascular disease. Often, the term are considered synonymous with death, cancer, pain, deformity, and dependency. Cancer is a global problem that affect people without regard to race, sex, age, socioeconomic status or cultural causes and causes 552,200 deaths annually (LEWIS, 2000).

In Iran many of cancer patients have undergoing chemotherapy annually. Cancer in general is the third largest cause of death. Annually, more than 30,000 people lose their lives due to cancer. It is estimated that each year more than 70,000 new cases of cancer occur in countries, and with increasing life expectancy and the aging of the population is expected cancer cases on the next two decades be double. (Institute for Research, Education and Treatment of Cancer 2012).

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One of the main treatments for cancer is chemotherapy. A successful course of chemotherapy may be associated with side effects such as nausea, vomiting, dehydration, fluid and electrolyte imbalance, malnutrition, decreased gastrointestinal mucosa of patients intolerant to treatment, and even refusing to be treated (Yoo HJ, Ann SH, Kim SB, 2005).

Nausea and vomiting are the most common and most annoying physical side effects of chemotherapy (Carner j, Baily C, 2001). Uncontrollable nausea and vomiting can cause delays in the periodic program in chemotherapy and clearly reduce the quality the patient's life (Deborah Hughes and et al 2008). In a study, the incidence of nausea and vomiting after chemotherapy 44.2 percent was expressed. On the other hand, 1- 25 % of patients receiving chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting caused by cancer treatment, refuse treatment (Grundy M.2001).

Despite advances in medical therapy, cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy as experience treatment-related side effects, including nausea, fatigue, anxiety, and pain. Although the anti-nausea medications are prescribed to prevent nausea and vomiting in patients who often are selective serotonin antagonists, but most patients are resistant to these treatments. It is estimated that more than 60% of patients who receive chemotherapy despite antiemetic drugs, suffer from the condition (Griffiths & Klein 2004). Several randomized controlled trials studies on the effect of complementary therapies on the effects of chemotherapy ever done, preliminary evidence suggests that complementary therapies may be reduce symptoms of chemotherapy and improve the health of patients. (Janice Post-White and et al, 2003). However, because these studies were conducted with different designs and have shown different effects on different populations need to examine the effect of these studies.

New research suggests that patient to comply with medical conditions frequently seek medical interventions that are capability to perform outside of the clinic and is called complementary and alternative therapies. (Ahles TA, Tope DM, Pinkson B.1999). Massage therapy is one of complementary medicine which has highest rates of use in complementary therapies in cancer patients. Massage therapy reduces stress hormones like cortisol, epinephrine and norepinephrine and thus reduce anxiety and nausea and vomiting and creates relaxation and has been used as the most common way of complementary and alternative medicine for health promotion and prevention of diseases in acute and chronic conditions (Deborah Hughes and et al 2008).

There is a set of empirical evidence and case study reports (Johnston, 1996; Refuge in 1995, West 1994, Wright 1999, Manzoli 2001) that support the use of massage therapy in cancer care and introduce its benefits for cancer patients, reduced the level of relieve anxiety and emotional stress, pain, muscle tension and fatigue (Campbell 2001).

Although several studies have been done in this area, yet has not given a definitive answer to the question of what effect massage on nausea and vomiting. In addition to the above, study the texts show there is no credible evidence of tumor spread through massage therapy, but health care providers should know although massage therapy is safe, but may have many disadvantages for some patients (Corbin 2005). Thus, a systematic review in this regard could be helpful. The objectives of this systematic review include: 1. the effect of massage therapy on postoperative nausea and vomiting in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment according to the type of massage therapy (Swedish massage, aromatherapy, reflexology, acupressure, and touch), 2. The effect of massage therapy on nausea and vomiting in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy according to the type of gastrointestinal or non-gastrointestinal cancer 3. The effect of massage therapy on nausea and vomiting in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy,

depending on the type of chemotherapy regimen, and is an answer to this question: does the nausea and vomiting massage reduces chemotherapy in cancer patients?

**Methods and Findings**

The present study is a systematic review in which all studies that were in regard to the effects of massage therapy on postoperative nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing cancer treatments until 2014 had been done, were searched by the key word "cancer," "nausea," "vomiting" and "massage treatment "strategy Chochrane the databases CINAHL, British Nursing Index, EMBASE,, PubMed, AMED, PsycINFO, SIGLE, Google scholar CancerLit Chochrane sites. Search basis was based on select clinical trials and quasi-experimental studies that their abstracts were published in English and Persian. Inclusion criteria were as follows: a quasi-experimental studies, before and after randomized controlled clinical trials with the issue of massage therapy in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and aged 18 to 65 years and measured nausea and vomiting by a reliable and valid measurements, patients were not using any complementary therapy other than standard treatment. ` , the studies which had following criteria were not evaluated: 1. those review these techniques as retrospective, 2. trials without control

Assessment of nausea and vomiting, according to the scales used in the authoritative references was used, so that the repetition rate of nausea and vomiting were measured. In the literature general, finally 14 studies were collected. Among the articles by topic, by two experienced researcher examined and by the evaluation checklist (RCTs) of controlled clinical trials CONSORT and with considering criteria for inclusion in the study, 8 articles were selected. Characteristics of studies included in Table 1. The ultimate goal of all this research in methods and dependent variables (nausea and vomiting) have a common points. Among the eight studies, a study on the effect of Swedish massage, a study of the impact of soft strokes, a study of the impact of effleurage strokes and 5 studies on the effect of acupressure which were a form of massage had examined nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing chemotherapy:

1. randomized controlled trial Billhult (2007) with the aim of detecting the effect of massage pressure in women with breast cancer were performed in the six areas of nausea, anxiety, depression, quality of life, stress and cellular immunity. Inclusion criteria included a diagnosis of breast cancer, female gender, being on the list of chemotherapy. In all patients, an anti-nausea drugs and a corticosteroids were given. Massage was performed from the behind to the trailing limb. Patients were randomly assigned to a massage therapy group (20 minutes in 5 innings of massage) or control group (a five 20 -minute visit). Massage were followed by 5 nurses and practical nurses after theoretical and practical training. Massage was conducted as a soft blows for 20 minutes and by cooled vegetable oil. The control group were visited only by one of the hospital staff for 20 minutes. All conditions were the same except for the intervention. Measured outcomes included nausea and VAS on a scale of 100 mm, before and after intervention were measured every 5 sessions. Data were analyzed using t-tests (to determine differences between groups) and Bartlett's test (to determine inequality of variances for the groups) and software EpI-Info. The results showed that the massage reduced vomiting of the intervention group compared with the control group (Mann-Whitney test, the average percent of recovery =  $3.32 \pm 73.2$  percent). The study shows that massage can be beneficial in patients undergoing chemotherapy, but the need to confirm the results by studies with larger volumes are listed in this study.

2. Study of Post-White (2003) was conducted as randomized controlled cross over trial. Inclusion criteria included adult patients from two outpatient chemotherapy clinics with a

diagnosis of cancer who have remained two or more cycles of chemotherapy and also has score 3 of 10 or higher than in the report of nausea. Patients were randomly assigned to one of three groups: massage therapy, therapeutic touch group (energy healing) and received care. All those were received four 45-minute sessions of the set interventions per week and four times a week a standard / control care. The first session of the intervention or control began before the first cycle of chemotherapy in the treatment. After four weekly sessions, participants were replaced in the intervention groups. The mean time between weekly visits was from 6.9 to 7.2 days and the average time between cross periods 16.7 days (range, 3 to 56 days). Assessing the nausea and self- scoring the current vomiting was on a scale of zero to ten, just before and after each intervention session. After 4 weeks, evaluation of intervention effects at the beginning and end of session of each 4- week period, sessions 1, 4, 5, 8, was carried out. A Swedish massage protocol with the same blows using massage gel Biotone, containing oils of apricot, grape and sesame were performed. Participants began the massage in a prone position by effleurage strokes (gentle rhythmic crawling strokes) to top of back and then by petrissage (relaxation massage) and rub the waist, hips, buttocks continued distal organs. Massage and touch was avoided in the tumor and surgery location. Nausea was measured as self-reporting using BPI instrument. 33 patients due to request a different treatment or change in schedule, 30 patients due to changes in treatment protocols and 3 patients because of death were also excluded. After loss of the samples among 66 patients remaining 15, 21 and 30 patients were in the groups of massage, touch and control, respectively. Nausea group had more loss than the study group in baseline. (Index score,  $z = -2.04$ ,  $P = 0.041$ ) analysis revealed that the conditions received had no effect on outcomes of interventions. Despite the meantime wash-out 7 to 16 days between the intervention conditions, two outcomes with the transitional effect showed that response to variable of use of Ondansetron ( $z = -2.15$ ,  $P = 0.031$ ) in the first period will affect the response to the second period. Therefore, only data from the first period (sessions 1 to 4) were used to test the variables that leads to less power to detect differences for the use of Ondansetron. The effects of the intervention on the outcome of nausea factor during 4 weeks were compared with control group and no significant differences between each intervention and control conditions in the index of nausea, nausea interference or use of antiemetics was observed. The samples despite non-significant expressed nausea reduction after massage (table).

3- Study of Roscoe (2003) was done with the aim of determining the effects of pressure massage and wrist bands Acustimulation for the relief of nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy. Inclusion criteria included patients candidate for chemotherapy for the initial treatment with the regimen included in the table. Randomization was done based on the chemotherapeutic factor and clinical oncology program location of the population. The patients randomly was assigned in the groups of double-sided pressure bands (Sea-Band) and separate acustimulation band (Reliefband) or the control condition of without bond. All patients received antiemetics on the day of treatment. inside of the wrist, about 2 inches elementary to Fold of skin at the distal wrist between longus Palmaris tendons and carpi radialis flexor muscles was wrapped. The patients were instructed to wear the bands continuously for 5 days except when the water is likely to penetrate. Nausea and vomiting were measured by daily reports of the patients. Each day was divided to 4 episodes (morning, afternoon, evening and night) and patients reported severity of nausea and the number of vomiting occurrence for each period at each day of treatment and 4 days later (generally 20 report time). Severity of nausea on a 7-point scale was evaluated with grades range from grade 1 for lack of nausea to grade 7 for severe nausea. The following score showed four moderate nausea. Using t-test and chi-square, 6



outcomes related to wrist bands performance were evaluated: Frequency of vomiting, nausea peak intensity on the day of treatment (acute nausea), vomiting peak intensity during the second to fourth days of treatment (delayed nausea) and the anti-nausea medications taken at home. Initial analysis revealed that patients with compression bandages had significantly less nausea on the day of treatment (mean 2.6) compared with control group (mean 3). Patients with acustimulation band reported less nausea ( $p = 0.005$ ). Anti-nausea pills taking was lower at a pressure bandage group (5.1) compared with patients of the group without bond (9.7). But statistically was not observed the difference in nausea and vomiting. This study support the bands as a complementary therapy along with anti-nausea medication to control nausea caused by chemotherapy. Patients of the pressure group had a lower nausea than the control group. This reduction was not seen in delayed nausea.

4-Pearl et al (1998) assessed performance of Acustimulation with a follow-up in a controlled and randomized double-blind placebo crossover trial study. All patients participating in the study received a standard protocol to treat nausea and were bandaged for 7 days continuously. Patients in active bands cycles compared to placebo band cycle patients reported a significant reduction in nausea during the second to fourth days after the treatment. The incidence and severity of nausea and vomiting was similar for both groups. 18 patients were among the crossover of the study. The mean age of crossover patients and their antiemetic dose was comparable with the general population of the study (56.3 years against 58.6 and 22.7 versus 22.7 milligrams per square meter per week). Although nausea was significantly less in active cycles during second to fourth days, patients on average experienced less than one daily episodes of vomiting per cycle. The researchers concluded that pressure bands are an effective complement for standard antiemetic factors to control nausea caused by chemotherapy with cisplatin in patients with gynecological cancer.

5. Study Grealish, Laurie (1999) is a quasi-experimental study of use of foot massage on patients with cancer. In a sample of 87 persons, foot massage was done and was measured with a visual analog scale. The purpose of this study was to investigate the therapeutic effects of foot massage as a complementary therapy. Objectives to measure the effect of foot massage was a subjective experience of pain, nausea, and calm. To separate acute pain from cancer pain, inclusion criteria: a) cancer diagnosis b) age 18 years or more, c) pain and / or nausea, and d) the lack of any recent surgery within 6 weeks and participation in the study with informed consent in accordance with the standards of the local health department and the university ethics committee voluntarily. In fact, 103 people were enrolled in the study, but 7 patients withdrew due to disease severity. In addition, nine persons' data were incomplete, so that the sample declined to 87 subjects, 52 females and 35 males (aged 18 to 88 years, mean 58.2 years). Participants under study were massaged twice and in the third time were as the control of their group. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups of agent- control. Heart rate and subjective data, such as pain and nausea were collected at two intervals: before the massage and 10 to 20 minutes after the massage. Massage would take for 10 minutes (5 minutes for each leg). Massage was performed from toes to the leg. In this study, it is often tried to control situations, however, no control of the whole terms is the limitations of the study. Self-reporting of nausea was measured using the VAS 100 mm. Average scores for heart rate (beats per minute), pain, nausea and relaxation before and after were compared using the t test for related samples. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) in three different modes, C (controlled before and after), M1 (first innings of massage before and after), and M2 (second innings of massage before and after) were conducted for each participant, with respect to gender as a factor for the research and the t-test was set with

86 degrees of freedom and statistical differences with a significance level of 0.05. Significant difference was found between the pre-test control session and nausea mean score declined from 18.4 + 22.5 mm to post- test score 17.4 + 20.5 mm ( $T = 0.942$ ,  $P = 0.1745$ ). In contrast, nausea mean score for massage session declined from 17.5 + 24.4 mm to 11.1 + 19.1 mm ( $t = 3.117$ ,  $P = 0.0012$ ), the mean difference is 6.4 mm. The result of data for session 2 was repeated with a before massage nausea score of 17.7 + 23.6 mm and after massage nausea score 12.8 + 18.6 mm ( $t = 3.178$ ,  $P = 0.0011$ ), with a mean difference of 4.9 mm.

6- The purpose of the study of Suh EE (2012) is to investigate the effect of P6 acupressure on nausea and vomiting induced by chemotherapy in patients with breast cancer. This study is a randomized clinical trial in cancer center at the University of Seoul, including 120 women undergoing chemotherapy after breast cancer. Participants were randomly divided into four groups: control group (who received placebo), the group that received only counseling, the group that only received P6 acupressure and the group that received P6 acupressure with nurse consultations. Gastrointestinal discomfort experiences was measured by Rhodes index of nausea, vomiting and retching including acute (1day) and delayed (days 2 to 5 days) observation of CINV chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting. Significant differences was seen in demographic and disease-related variables among the four groups. CINV levels were significantly different in the two groups from day 2 to day 5. CINV difference mainly was related to the difference between the two groups of control and P6 acupressure with nurse-provided counseling. Effect of acupressure was proved from day 2 to day 5, and the effect of nurse advising on day 4 was approved and was close to the level of significance on day 5. Synergistic effects of P6 acupressure with nurse consultation is seen effective at reducing CINV in patients with breast cancer. P6 acupressure along with counseling by nurses is a safe and easy way to reduce nausea in patients.

7- The aim of the study Dibble (2007) was to compare differences in nausea and vomiting (CINV) among the three groups of women with acupressure, placebo acupressure and conventional care undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer. This study was a randomized clinical trial was conducted in a cancer center affiliated with the University of Texas. 160 women with breast cancer undergoing chemotherapy with moderate nausea were studied. Inclusion criteria of the study were women who received cyclophosphamide with or without fluorouracil with doxorubicin with uorouracil paclitaxel or docetaxel, or 5-FL, epirubicin, and cyclophosphamide for the treatment of breast cancer and nausea severity score with the last chemotherapy at least 3 (average) at evaluation of the following day and tendency to participate in the study. Subjects were randomly assigned to one of three groups. All patients were studied for 21 days and the symptoms of nausea and vomiting were recorded. The used tool was Rhodes Index of Nausea. In addition, nausea was scored using rating scale numerical description (NRS) from 0 (no nausea) to 10 (worst imaginable nausea). Acupressure for nausea treatment involves the use of digital pressure to one of the points located on both forearms using the thumb for 6 minutes in the morning and 3 minutes during the day. Pressure in the placebo group was entered in the area except wrist. Acupressure was taught to nurses and the researcher by educational films. Overall m of the massage was over 4 hours in a month. Initially, total number of samples was 256 samples and 96 patients were excluded because of the severity of illness and lack of desire to continue the study. 54 patients in the usual care group and 53 patients in the placebo group and 53 patients in the acupressure group were included. The results showed that the reduction of nausea and vomiting was higher in P6 acupressure group, nausea in the acupressure

group was reduced than the placebo group  $t = 3.13$ ,  $P = 0.002$  odds ratio [OR = 1.3) or the usual care group  $t = 4.81$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ , OR = 1.4)).

Acupressure group compared with placebo and usual care was estimated with a reduction in rank of nausea as follows: Acupressure group versus usual care,  $T = 4.56$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ , IRR = 1.11; Acupressure RIN versus placebo = 0.008, IRR =  $T = 2.68$ ,  $P = 0.07$ ; NRS nausea: Acupressure versus usual care,  $T = 4.43$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ , IRR = 1.11, nausea: NRS Acupressure versus placebo,  $T = 2.14$ ,  $P = 0.03$ , IRR = 1.06). Overall, there is no significant differences in demographics and disease among the three groups, there was no statistically significant difference in acute nausea or nausea and vomiting by treatment group as compared with other groups. Severity of nausea and delayed vomiting rates (2 to 11 days after chemotherapy) was reduced in the acupressure group than in the other two groups. Severity of nausea and vomiting in the placebo and usual care groups had not significantly different.

8- The aim of the study of Debille (2000) was to compare the severity of nausea and vomiting in breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. For this reasons, two groups of patients were studied. First group of patients was those patients treated with acupressure and the second group of patients was those who only received usual care. For this, 17 women within 21 to 28 days were studied in a randomized clinical trial. Inclusion conditions was having CMF regimen or doxorubicin, having nausea in previous treatments and fluency in English. Demographic information and disease information questionnaire and assessment tools for nausea and vomiting nausea Rhodes from the range 0 to 12 were used as the research tool and over the past 24 hours was measured from 0 to 10. Another tool was chemotherapy problems checklists that was completed patients by the patients. Before starting chemotherapy, all participants completed a questionnaire about their demographics and disease. Treatment group was trained to acupressure, and pressure points of patients' wrist and knee was where under pressure for 3 minutes. There was significant difference in the severity of nausea in the acupressure group than in the usual care there.  $F = 10.4$ ,  $p = 0.005$ , but was observed no significant differences in the questionnaire of problems during chemotherapy in the two groups.  $F = 0.042$ ,  $p = 0.08$ , Nausea average of the acupressure group and the control group in the last month were 8.2 and 3, respectively.

Table1 - Characteristics of the studies along with response rates and outcomes of massage therapy

Research ers	Type of study	The study populati on	A ge	The sa mple siz e	Technique s of Massage Therapy	Type of Cancer	Type of chemotherapy regimens	The response rate and Massage Therapy outcome
Billhult (2007)	RCT	Women with breast cancer	- 69 33	39	soft strokes	Breast Cancer	epirubicin 75 mg / m2 (Pharmalink AB, Uppland V äsby, Sweden), fluorou racil 600mg / m2 (Mayne Pharma Plc, Warwickshire, United	Meaningfu l ( $P =$ 0.025)



							Kingdom),cyclophosphamide 600 mg / m <sup>2</sup> (Baxter Medical AB, Kista, Sweden) every third week for a total of seven sessions.	
Post-White (2003).	RCT	Patients referred to the chemotherapy clinic	- 83 27	230	Swedish massage protocol	Types of chemotherapy cancers	receiving chemotherapy with an identical repeating, cycle for 2 or more remaining cycle	reduction of nausea without significant
Roscoe (2003)	RCT	Patients referred to the chemotherapy clinic	Not listed	700	Acupressure Band & Acustimulation Bands	Types of chemotherapy cancers	cisplatin or doxorubicin	Acupressure Band: Meaningful (P = 0.05) Acustimulation Bands: N / S
Grealis, Laurie (1999).	RCT	Patients with genital cancer.	Mean 58	42	Reliefband: P6 acupuncture point	Cancers of the reproductive system	Unknown	significant reduction of nausea
Pearl (2007).	RCT	Women with breast cancer treated with chemotherapy	51.8	39	effleurage strokes, to either their foot / lower leg or to their hand / lower arm	Breast Cancer	---	Meaningful P <0.05
Suh EE(2012),	RCT	Women with breast cancer in the first cycle of chemotherapy	Over 18 years	120	P6 acupressure	Breast Cancer	---	Meaningful P <0.05
Debille (2007).	RCT	Women with breast cancer	Over 18	160	acupressure to P6 point	Breast Cancer	-----	N / S
Debille	RCT.	Outpati	O	18	Acupressure	Carcino	Doxorubicin ,	Meaningful

2000).	pilot	ent cancer clinic	ve r 18 ye ar s		rep6 & ST36	ma and Adnoka r Synom	Cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, fluorouracil	1 P <0.01
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**Discussion and conclusions**

Nausea and vomiting are very common, yet debilitating side effects of cancer treatments. Results of this study corroborates the notion that according to the studies differences in the type of chemotherapy, type of interventions, measurement tools and the described results, a more studies are needed and it is needed to done more research in each group with different cancer and also with different chemotherapy treatments.

In response to the first objective of this study: should be noted that only two of the 8 studies did not show significant results regarding the effect of massage therapy on nausea and vomiting in patients with cancer undergoing chemotherapy. Perhaps this lack of difference is related to the use of different questionnaires and in some cases to the less sample size. If the authors had used the specific tools, effect and the results obtained from interventions was found to be an effective intervention. On the other hand, given that in 4 of 5 trials that had used pressure massage technique and the results were significant, perhaps it can be say that massage of acupressure possibly is effective on nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy, but as mentioned above, due to differences in the studies, it cannot be considered conclusively. As well, all of the 8 studies reported loss of the subjects, and this issue show results in more realistic and due to the fact that the interference in the case of cancer, various types of studies is limited and due to the combination of chemotherapy, further studies are requires.

In response to the second goal of the study, however, due to the limited number of studies have wrought on nausea and vomiting variables, cannot be conclusively stated this issue. However, since 5 of the 8 studies were conducted on women with breast cancer and a study on gynecological cancers and two studies on various types of cancers, perhaps it can be said that massage therapy influence nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy in cancer of the breasts, however, further studies are needed. So to confirm this reasoning, studies with larger sample size than previous research is needed. The limitations of the conducted studies is that none of the study on nausea and vomiting women patients at different stages of chemotherapy has not been studied and there is not the possibility of comparing the effectiveness of interventions at different stages of chemotherapy and further randomized controlled trials need to investigate this difference.

Regarding to the third objective: Since chemotherapy regimens in the studies were not the same, cannot be said that how massage therapy is effect on nausea and vomiting in the different regimens of chemotherapy.

However, there are no systematic investigation without limitation and this case study is also not excluded. Firstly because in some studies, although interventions have been mentioned as an effective tool in reducing nausea and vomiting, but the most difference are defined close to the level of the significant border ( $P = 0.05$ ) . However, there is the possibility of more comparative

studies on the interventions methods in the present studies that may be are not considered here. However, although all expressed positive results but further studies are needed.

The present systematic review Despite confirmation of the effect of massage therapy methods on nausea and vomiting in 6 cases of the 8 papers could not have review and approve the positive effects of these methods on all types of cancers, all types of chemotherapy regimens and in all studies conducted in different countries and however, due to different conditions are not retractable and meta-analysis in all studies. Since this study was only conducted research and published in English and engage in many valid sites, it seems according to appropriate method of conducted trials, the noted interventions can be useful to improve the nausea and vomiting of breast cancer to a large extent, and since the fact that the implementation of these complementary methods are inexpensive and easy to learn and perform and harm to patients, it can be considered for complementary and nursing treatment in the cancer treatment centers.

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